

SYNONYMY OF BURMANNIA AND GYROTHECA

BY ROLAND M. HARPER

A few weeks ago I had occasion to look up the synonymy of *Burmannia capitata*, one of the plants I collected in Georgia last summer, and found the following facts of interest in connection with it.

In Heller's Catalogue of North American Plants, both editions, the name of this species is cited as *B. capitata* Chapm. But Dr. Chapman was not the original author of the species, for in his Flora of the Southern States, all editions, he gives as a synonym *Tripterella capitata* Mx. Michaux based his species on *Vogelia capitata* Gmel., and Gmelin refers to "Walt. flor. carol. p. 69," where our plant seems to have been first described, under the name of "*Anonymos capitat.*"

Having traced the origin of the name back to Walter, it then occurred to me that Dr. Morong a few years ago had published the combination *Gyrotheca capitata*,* based on this same *Anonymos capitat.* of Walter. On examining Walter's description, I noticed that it applied undoubtedly to our *Burmannia*, and had nothing whatever to do with *Gyrotheca*. But on the opposite page (68) I noticed an *Anonymos tinctori.*, the description of which clearly applies to our *Gyrotheca*, and the cause of the trouble at once became evident.

It appears that Dr. Morong in some way got the two names confused, for he says: "It is a little singular that Walter's specific name has been changed into 'tinctoria' by all the writers who have quoted him, from Pursh to Kuntze. The plant is placed by Walter among his 'Anonymo' genera, the term he uses when he is doubtful about the genus, but his description is so full that no one can doubt what is meant." He then cites the correct page, 68, but gives the wrong specific name, *capitata*.

This error seems to have passed unnoticed ever since, having been taken up in the "List of Pteridophyta and Spermatophyta growing without cultivation in Northeastern North America"

* Bull. Torr. Club, 20: 472. D. 1893.

(Mem. Torr. Club, 5), Britton and Brown's Illustrated Flora, Rhodora (1: 68), Heller's Catalogue, and other publications.

In the Kew Index, Walter's *Anonymos capitata* is correctly referred to *Burmannia*, and the authorship of the combination *Burmannia capitata* is credited to Martius.

The correct synonymy of these two species is then as follows :

✓ BURMANNIA CAPITATA (Walt.) Mart. Nov. Gen. et Sp. Pl. Bras. 1: 12. 1824.

Anonymos capitata. Walt. Fl. Car. 69. 1788.

Vogelia capitata Gmel. Syst. 2: 107. 1791.

Tripterella capitata Mx. Fl. Bor. Am. 1: 19. pl. 3. 1803.

✓ GYROTHECA TINCTORIA (Walt.) Sal. Trans. Hort. Soc. 1: 327. 1812.

Anonymos tinctori. Walt. Fl. Car. 68. 1788.

Dilatris tinctoria Pursh, Fl. Am. Sept. 30. 1814.

Lachnanthes tinctoria Ell. Bot. S. C. & Ga. 1: 47. 1816.

Gyrotheca capitata Morong, Bull. Torr. Club, 20: 472. 1893.

Several other synonyms for the latter are given in Dr. Morong's paper.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

TRANSPIRATION OF RUST-INFESTED RUBUS

BY FREDERICK H. BLODGETT

On May 23d last, two branches of *Rubus* sp. were cut from adjacent plants. The branches were as nearly alike in size and number of leaves as possible, but one was healthy, the other badly rusted (with *Gymnoconia interstitialis*). Fifteen minutes after cutting they were placed in water. Each had wilted somewhat, especially in the new growth of which there were several inches on each branch. The rusted branch was wilted considerably more than the healthy one. The healthy specimen revived when placed in water, the rusted one continued to wilt, the basal leaves only showing any tendency to recover.

On the 24th the test was repeated in a more careful manner. The two branches bore the same relation to one another as before, but they were placed in water immediately upon cutting.